

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3 are amended without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2 and 12-15 are cancelled herewith.

Rejection of Claims 2- 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 2- 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims appropriately address the Section 112 rejection by removing the limitation of receiving the input that can either be a first spoken alphabetic character input or a first keypad entry of plural alphabetic characters. Since the claims are now limited to receiving initial input that comprises a first keypad entry of a plural alphabetic characters, Applicants submit that the Section 112 rejection has been appropriately handled.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brotman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,890) ("Brotman et al. '890") in view of Meador et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,425) ("Meador et al.") in view of Brotman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,889) ("Brotman et al. '889"). Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to recite and focus the invention on the concept that after receiving initial input of a first keypad entry of plural alphabetic characters using a dual-tone multi-frequency key tone for each of the characters, the method includes, if input received from the user indicates that the keypad entry played back to the user does not match the entered keypad character input loading a speech recognition grammar associated with possible alphabetic character combinations that correspond to the DTMF character input by the user, prompting the user to speak the previously-entered

alphabetic characters, receiving and recognizing user speech with the loaded speech recognition grammar and prompting the user to verify an identified character string as a correct character string. Applicants respectfully submit that the concept of loading a speech recognition grammar that are associated with the possible alphabetic character combinations that correspond to the DTMF tone character input by the user is not taught or suggested in the references. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 12-15 are cancelled thus rendering the direction of these claims moot. Claims 3-11 each depend from claim 1 and recite further limitations therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 2-14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 2-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brotman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,890) ("Brotman et al. '890") in view of Meador et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,425) ("Meador et al.") in view of Brotman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,889) ("Brotman et al. '889") and further in view of Hartley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,910,012) ("Hartley et al."). Applicants respectfully submit that based on the cancellation of certain claims and the amendment to the parent claim, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Applicants do not acquiesce that it would be obvious of one of skill in the art to make any of the combinations of the prior art disclosed herein. However, Applicants submit that the concept of loading a particular speech recognition grammar that is associated with possible alphabetic character combinations that correspond to the DTMF character input by the user is not taught or suggested in these references and therefore, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 9, 2008

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